OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
GOVERNOR

JOHN BOHLINGER
LT. GOVERNOR

December 2008

Welcome to the 2008 Tribal Relations Training!

In 2003, Representative Jonathan Windy Boy introduced legislation formalizing the government-to-government relationship between the State of Montana and Tribal Governments. As part of this legislation, the State has been conducting an annual training for state employees for the purpose of improving government-to-government relationships.

During the 2007 legislative session, I signed HB 105 into law enabling my office to sponsor this training because I believe that a state workforce that has a solid understanding of the Indian culture and issues pertaining to Indian Nations is fundamental to strong state-tribal relationships.

I am pleased to have Coach Robin Selvig as the keynote speaker at this year's training. In February 2001 Mr. Selvig was inducted into the Grizzly Sports Hall of Fame. He has been named the Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA) District VII Coach of the Year nine times. Mr. Selvig will also be inducted on December 12 in the Montana Indian Athletic Hall of Fame. Today he will be speaking about his work experience recruiting and retaining American Indian women on the University of Montana Lady Griz basketball program. I am confident that his stories will be inspirational and helpful for your work with Tribes.

In addition to Mr. Selvig, we have many distinguished panelists presenting on the economic, legal, social, educational, and environmental issues of concern to Tribes. Furthermore, Blackfeet storyteller and lecturer Jack Gladstone will bring a cultural component to the training. I encourage you to listen closely as they share their experiences with you. Strong state-tribal relations and strong Indian Nations are in the interest of all Montanans.

Please take what you learn here today, apply it in your work and help the state and the tribes move forward together into a new era.

Sincerely,

BRIAN SCHWEITZER
Governor